

What is claimed is:

1. A method for reducing tumor burden comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of an EGFR inhibitor to a human patient suffering from a cancer in which the cancer cells express the CCK_B/gastrin receptor and express little or no EGFR.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the EGFR inhibitor is a small molecule.
3. A method for inhibiting recurrence of gross cystic disease of the breast and/or inhibiting the progression from gross cystic disease of the breast to breast cancer comprising administering to a patient who presently has or has had gross cystic disease of the breast a therapeutically effective amount of an EGFR inhibitor.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the EGFR inhibitor is administered orally.
5. A method for preventing or reducing the frequency or severity of transient ischemic attacks or strokes comprising administering to a patient suffering from cerebral ischemia a therapeutically effective amount of an EGFR inhibitor.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the patient suffers from hypertension.
7. The method of claim 5, wherein the patient suffers from atherosclerosis.